

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 4, 2014

*Catherine Smith, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development*

House Bill No. 5351

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR PAYMENT OF PROPERTY
TAXES FOR ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS**

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra, Senator Kelly, Representative Adinolfi, and the members of the Aging Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding one of the bills before you here today – HB 5351.

House Bill 5351 would require that DECD establish a revolving loan fund to assist elderly property owners who are struggling to pay their property taxes. Without regard to the merits of such a program, we at DECD have a concern with this legislation. We view it as an unfunded mandate. At present, we do not have the funding and requisite personnel to establish and administer such a revolving loan fund.

Thanks, in advance, for your due consideration of this testimony.